

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland/Czechoslovakia
 (Corps of Frontier Guards)
 SUBJECT Polish WOP Units and Security
 Measures on the Polish-Czechoslovak
 Border (Identification papers needed)
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. [] a report containing information on WOP Border Guard units, border area regulations, and special passes. [] Annex A of the report, [] pinpoints the location of one legal border crossing point, eight stationary and roving patrol units, one WOP garrison and prison labor camp, and an unidentified WOP headquarters in the Zakopane area of the Tatra Mountain region in Poland.

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POLISH WOP UNITS AND SECURITY MEASURES
ON THE POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER (C)

Introduction

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1. Special Pass and Tourist Registration in the Border Area

a. Special Pass for the Border Belt

This pass was issued to all members of the Polish Tatra Mountain Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Tatrzańskie). It was a red, booklet-type document, 15 x 10 cm when folded and 15 x 20 cm when opened. The front cover of the document carried the society's name, emblem and central headquarters address, [] believed to be in WARSAW. Page two contained the bearer's passport-size photo, personal data and signature. The upper half of page three contained the signature of a responsible society officer and an official society stamp. The lower half of page three contained a verifying WOP official's signature and an unidentified WOP official stamp.

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[] this pass was also issued to high government dignitaries who desired it when vacationing in the Zakopane area.

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The pass holders were allowed to hike in restricted border belt areas, and to take parties of five to seven persons into these areas; however, to do so, the pass holder had to report the proposed hike, the area to be visited, and the names of persons to be included in the party. This notification had to be made 24 hours prior to the commencement of the proposed hike. In this manner, the person in charge of the hike remained solely responsible for the behavior of the members of his party. [] the 24-hour notification period was for the benefit of WOP, who utilized this time to alert WOP stationary and patrol units that a hiking party would be in a specific area the following day. This pass allowed the holder and his party to hike in the vicinity of Rysy peak (at coordinates UTM DV-338482) and areas beyond the peaks of Kasprowy Wierch (at coordinates UTM DV-259538) and Czerwone Wierchy (at coordinates UTM DV-208539), all located directly on the Polish-Czechoslovak Border and off-limits to ordinary tourists and hikers. However, ordinary tourists were allowed to visit the lakes of Gasienicowe Stawy (at coordinates UTM DV-274540), Merskie Oko (at coordinates UTM DV-327503), and Mickiewicz Waterfalls, the Restaurant-Hotel and Meteorological Station on Kasprowy Wierch peak.

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b. Tourist Registration

A person, who wanted to remain in the Zakopane border area, had to possess an approximately 10 x 16 cm notification card (Karta Meldunkowa) which was yellow and black in color. This card was issued by the Population Registration

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Office (Biuro Ewidencji Ludnosci) of the City District Council (Rada Dzielnicowa) of the person's native city. This card had to be presented to the Population Registration Office in ZAKOPANE (N49-18, E19-58)(UTM DV-2462) for verification and the stamp of approval within 24 hours of the person's arrival in the city. 1.

Other documents needed and which had to be in order, were the Identity Book (Dowod Osobisty) and/or Military Identity Book (Ksiazeczka Wojskowa). These had to be shown on demand along with the notification card to any policeman, WOP guard, or authorized person of the Ministry of Internal Affairs or its branches.

2. Border Area Warning Signs

a. General Regulations Signs

General regulation signs were displayed in ZAKOPANE and in the surrounding smaller communities. They were usually conspicuously displayed at the railroad station, at all main cross-roads, public buildings, coffee shops, cafes, and restaurants. The signs varied in size, depending on the place of display. They carried approximately 17 rules and regulations governing procedures and living conditions in the border area.

they were undersigned by WOP and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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b. Border Approach Warning Signs

These signs, approximately 40 x 70 cm, were displayed along all paths approximately one kilometer from the border line proper. They were usually constructed of wood and posted approximately two meters above the ground, nailed to trunks of trees adjacent to the paths. The lettering was black on a bright red background. They warned persons that they were nearing the border and also that a person would be detained if he did not possess the proper documents in his possession. Beyond this point, persons were required to have the Red Pass or be in the company of someone who had one on his person, and their presence in the area was properly declared 24 hours previously.

c. Border Markers

The border proper was marked by granite markers, approximately 20 x 30 cm and 80 cm high, one end of which was buried in the ground. they were approximately 200 m apart throughout the entire length of the border line in the Zakopane area of the Tatra mountain region. The only markings on these markers were the letters "P" on the Polish side and "C" on the Czechoslovak side. The letters were chiseled into the granite and were approximately 10 cm high.

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3. Legal Border Crossing Point

it was possible for tourists to cross into Czechoslovakia at the Border Crossing Point at the plateau of Lysa Polana at coordinates UTM DV-358574.² (See Annex A, Item 5.) Prior to such crossing, the crosser had to obtain a special pass (type and description were unknown) several days in advance from the WOP County Headquarters in NOWY TARG (N49-29, E20-22) (UTM DV-3082).

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the pass was only valid for two or three days and only in the Czechoslovak Tatra mountain region. Furthermore, a passport was not needed when a person had this type pass in his possession.

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4. Detention of Personnel for Border Regulation Infractions

[redacted] persons who were apprehended by WOP personnel for breaking border regulations, as well as those whose papers were not in proper order, were first taken to the unidentified WOP headquarters in ZAKOPANE. Later, they were transported by rail, bus or official vehicle to the WOP County Headquarters in NOWY TARG. They were detained there until the infraction was remedied or until such time as WOP officials disposed of the matter.

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COMMENTS:

1. [redacted]

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[redacted] the WOP officials in ZAKOPANE worked very closely with the Population Registration Office there; they were always well informed about the tourists that came into the area.

2. An article published in an issue of the newspaper "Soldier of Freedom" (Zolnierz Wolnosci), dated 12 June 1958, carried the following excerpt from an interview with Col Eugeniusz DOSTOJEWSKI, the Commander of WOP. "There were 100,000 border crossings processed in the Zakopane area on the Polish-Czechoslovak border. The majority of the border crossers were tourists."

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Annex A

LOCATION OF UNIDENTIFIED WOP UNITS ON THE POLISH-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER

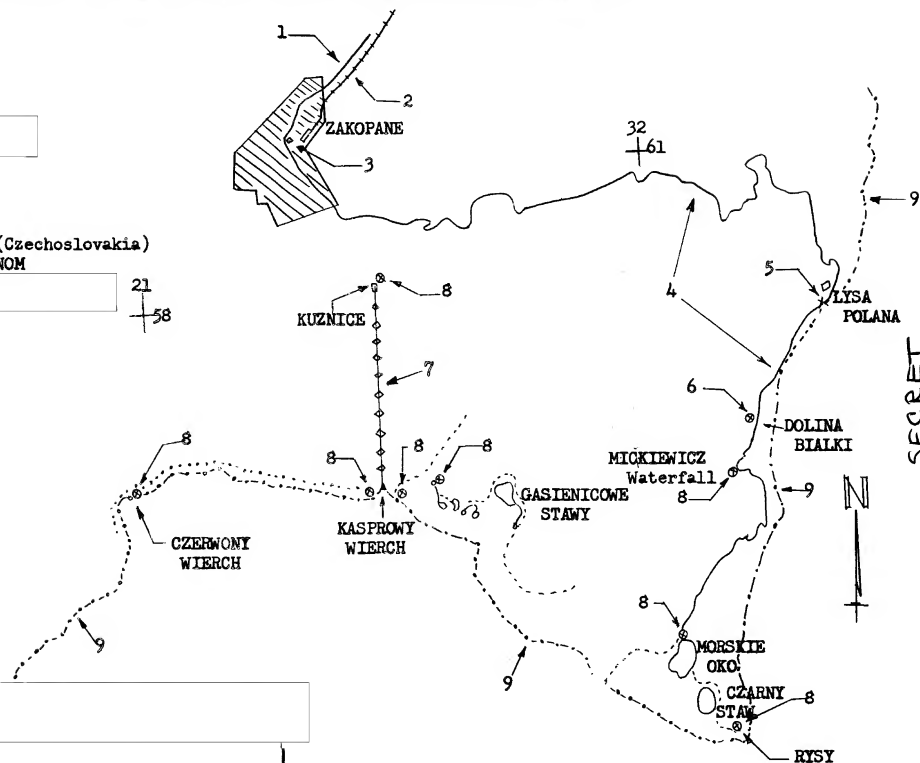
Map Reference:

Country: Poland
City: NOWY TARG

Scale: 1:100,000

Country: Middle Danube (Czechoslovakia)
City: BREZNO NAD HRONOM

Scale: 1:100,000



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Legend to Annex A

1. ZAKOPANE-NOWY TARG Road 3.
2. ZAKOPANE-NOWY TARG Railroad Line
3. Unidentified WOP Headquarters Installation

This installation was located on Ulica Krupowki in ZAKOPANE, at coordinates UTM DV-244616. It consisted of two buildings, one, an administrative building, and the other, a utility and barrack building. The administrative building, 18 x 10 x 7 m, was two story of red brick and gray stucco finish, with a slanted roof. Other dimensions and specifications were unknown.

The installation was surrounded by a wire mesh fence 2.5 m high, which was mounted on a stone and cement base with steel posts. The single entrance to the installation, a wrought iron double gate approximately 4.5 m wide and 4 m high, was located on Ulica Krupowki. On several occasions, [] 25X1

[] two armed guards (type weapons unknown) in green uniforms standing near the entrance inside the compound. [] no further information. 25X1

4. ZAKOPANE-Morskie Oko Road

This was an asphalt and tar road, approximately 5 m wide in the section between ZAKOPANE and the plateau of Lysa Polana. It narrowed to approximately 3.5 m from Lysa Polana to the lake Morskie Oko. There were many grades and serpentine turns on this section. It was used mainly by tourist buses between ZAKOPANE-Mickiewicz Waterfall at coordinates UTM DV-338539 and the lake Morskie Oko. [] no further information. 25X1

5. Legal Border Crossing Point (Located at coordinates UTM DV-358578)

[] number of WOP personnel concentrated in this area. 25X1
[] there were two small wooden buildings there [] also [] a manually controlled, red and white painted barrier of pipe and wood across the road in the area of the buildings. [] no further information. 25X1

6. Unidentified WOP Garrison, Prison Labor Camp and Identity Check Point

This installation was located in the valley Dolina Bialki at coordinates UTM DV-432551. The building was situated approximately two meters off the road; it was a two-story, 20 x 16 x 10 m, gray stucco finish building with a slanted roof of red tile. There was a wire mesh fence 2.5 m high with barbed wire at the top, erected for approximately 200 m in either direction on either end of the building, running parallel with the road. There were high piles of crushed rock adjacent to the fence inside the compound, which obstructed further view.

[] unidentified WOP prisoners worked in a rock quarry which was located at the rear of the installation. 25X1
[] no further information. 25X1

There was a stationary WOP guard post (from two to six men) in the vicinity of the installation adjacent to the road. [] 25X1
[] the WOP made periodic identity checks on persons who passed through this area. [] no further information.

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Legend to Annex A
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7. Aerial Cable Way

This cable way consisted of two lines. It operated between KUZNICE (N49-16, E19-59) (UTM DV-2658) and the peak Kasprowy Wierch, from 0800 hours to 1900 hours daily. In the winter it was predominantly used by skiers as a means of transportation to the top of the ski run on Kasprowy Wierch for which they paid a three-zloty charge. [] no further information.

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8. Unidentified WOP Stationary and Patrol Units

[] WOP patrols and stationary guard units at the below listed points:

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UTM DV-338539	UTM DV-338482	UTM DV-259538	UTM DV-208539
UTM DV-327503	UTM DV-274540	UTM DV-265538	UTM DV-262585

9. Polish-Czechoslovak Border

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